



# The Mint Master

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE—FEBRUARY

I hope everyone had as much fun as I did last month at our “Bourse Night.” Thanks to all of you that brought items to sell, trade, or give away. This is always a great activity at our meetings. I also want to thank all of you who go the extra mile and help with the extras than not only make our club great but also enhance and promotes comradery within the UNS. Those who volunteer for our program activities such as ‘News & Views,’ the “Coin Quiz,” bring ‘Mint-Exhibits,’ and “Refreshments” are very much appreciated not only by your President but all in attendance.

This month’s meeting we will be able to enjoy Phil Clark as he will be discussing details regarding Modern Coinage. Phil is a great asset to the UNS and is always ready to assist with multiple activities and his Young Numismatists column I know is well read by our members. I would also like to give Phil a special thank-you for his involvement in our Youth Night which we will all enjoy later this year.

I hope to see you all on February 9th, and remember ask a friend to come with you and introduce him or her to the UNS.

Larry N. Nielsen

## 2016 ANNUAL DUES NOTICE

Remember, the new year kicks off our membership and dues notice. Please try and pay your annual dues early as it definitely makes Tom Davis, our treasurer and Lavar Burton our secretary's jobs much easier.

**MEMBERSHIP  
RENEWAL**  
*Annual Dues*

## FEBRUARY'S AGENDA

Greetings .....Larry Nielsen  
Mini Exhibit.....Robie Cagle  
News & Views.....Collin Cagle  
Coin Quiz.....Eldon Farnsworth  
Refreshments.....Danette Ratcliff

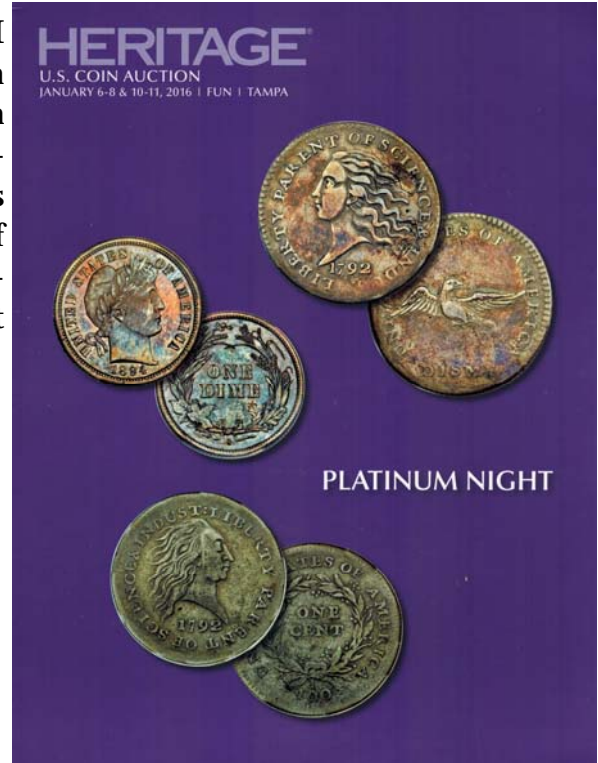
## HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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# Why Should You Be Interested In Major Auctions?

Doug Nyholm

For you UNS members, you are aware that I often in the Mint Master write of offerings in major auctions. Many of these auctions can take years to sell holdings of just a single person whose amassed collection contains coins that the vast majority of us can only dream of possessing. Recently the Eric Newman collection concluded with the 7th installment



which realized well over \$100 Million dollars and took over two years to sell. Currently Stacks is in the process of selling the D. Brent Pogue collection with the 3rd installment to be auctioned in New York Tuesday

Feb. 9th, in conjunction with our UNS club meeting. At least two more installments are planned and the total value will also be over \$100 million. The last installment realized an average lot value of over a quarter of a million dollars! Previously, there were also amazing auctions showcasing John J. Ford, Schingoethe, Elisaberg, Gardner, Pittman, and Garrett, just to name a few. So, I ask as per the title of this article, 'Why should you be interested in these major auctions?'

Very few of us will ever be able to own something from these high price extravaganzas let alone even observe items outside of the catalogues. Those 1804 dollars, 1913 Liberty nickels or 1894-S dimes are headline material but to most the interest stops at that. However, I do believe that there is much more behind the headlines than just the an-

nouncement of a record price. These coins, as well as even the lesser valued coins are history. As one who is interested in all things numismatic and questions who, what, how and when in regard to these rarities there is always a story. As the late Paul Harvey said and had a radio program for years entitled "The rest of the story" there is much to be learned, sometimes little known as well as well known information and history about almost everything, most including special rarities regarding these coins.

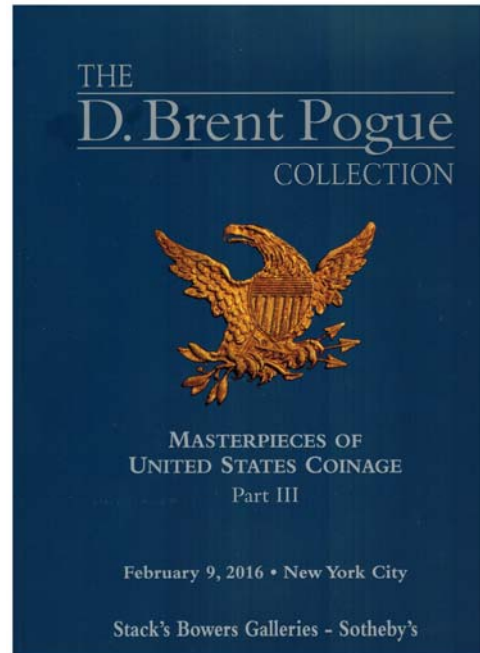
For example, how much do you know about the 1894-S Barber dime just sold for almost \$2 million dollars? Look it up in the Red Book and you will see that 24 were made and a couple of million dollar auction records or estimated prices are listed. Great, now lets move on to the 1895 dime. But, in

the Heritage auction catalogue in which this dime was described there, including pictures, was six pages of information! Even if you don't get hard copies of all (or any) of the major catalogues the same information is available on their website as well as other companies websites.

In particular, for the write-up for the 1894-S dime there are paragraphs noted with the following information.

- ◇ A description of the present example being offered
- ◇ Origin of the 1894-S Dime
- ◇ The Story
- ◇ Some Difficulties
- ◇ More origin Theory's
- ◇ Proofs or Business Strikes
- ◇ Numismatic and Discovery of the 1894-S Dime
- ◇ Roster of 1894-S dimes
- ◇ And other interesting paragraphs

Now there are only 9 confirmed known examples of the 24 supposedly minted original 1894-S dimes, so only 9 individuals can own an example. Again, this is history and







in my opinion can only make for fascinating reading and enhance your coin collecting experience. There is way more to the story about this dime than, "Wow, it sold for \$2 million dollars." This of course is an extreme example but there are many, even hundreds of coins described in these catalogues or auction houses that really bring forth the lure and wonder of our great hobby.

Other interesting information in this same catalogue are two pages of information about the original 1861 Confederate cent, this most certainly came to be from a very turbulent time in

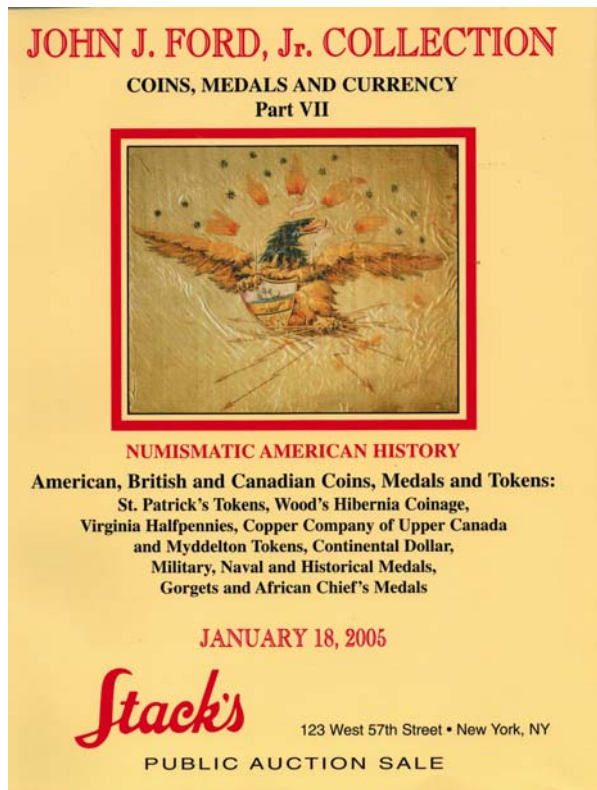
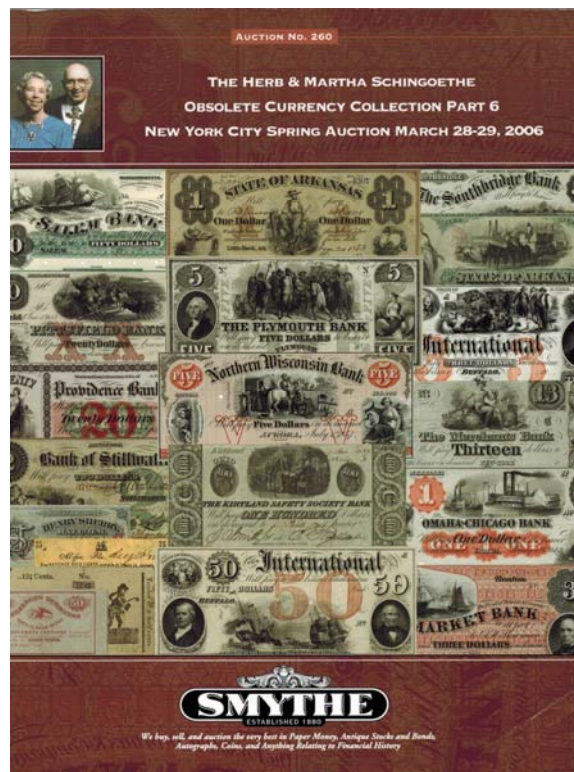
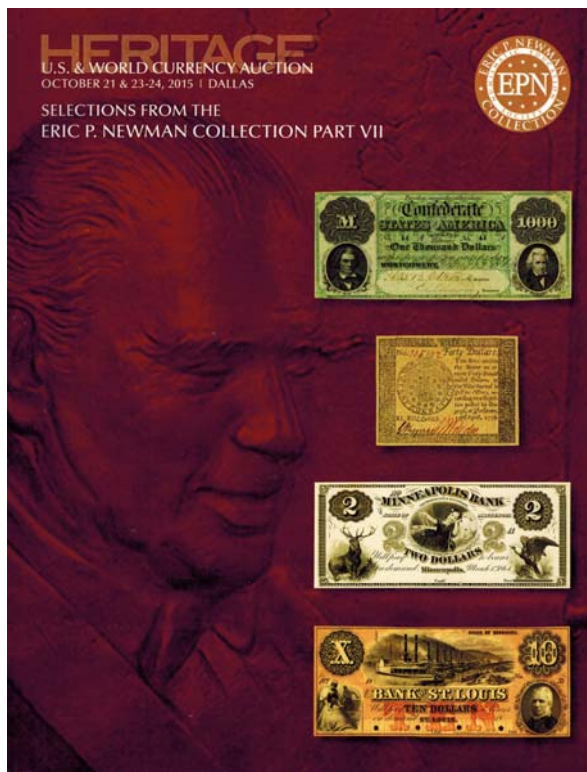


our history and even books have been authored about both these coins. Here is a brief synopsis and there is a wealth of information available without investing in an entire library, which is also fun to do also as my library now totals well over 2,000 catalogues and numismatic books. Many coins, that are not million dollar coins, are given at least a full page if not two and the information can lead to many answers and in many cases to a multitude of additional questions. This is one of the best ways imaginable to enjoy your hobby to the fullest extent.

As a further example of the wealth of information contained in these auction catalogues I point to the Stacks offering of the Pogue coins. The third offering, as I mentioned earlier to be sold Feb. 9 is a catalogue containing 337 pages. In these 337 pages there are offered only 158 lots or individual coins. This is an average of 2.1 pages allo-



cated to each lot! Of course each lot has a full page picture but there are also a number of lots with multiple pages. There are so many gems and finest knowns



that individuals items are way too numerous to list. You might as well purchase the catalogue. There is a complete set of \$3 gold coins (less the 1870-S of course) and virtually every coin in the set is the 'finest known.' Also a 1793 S-3 Chain cent certified as PCGS MS-63 Red/Brown. Bottom line, I just love coins, even the ones I can't own. With an auction catalogue I can admire these treasures which is really the next best thing to owning the actual coin.

So even if you aren't a millionaire or recent winner of the \$1.5 Billion dollar Powerball lottery you can still not only ogle these rarities but gain significant knowledge of them, the time that they were minted, and what was taking place

in history during that time. I definitely urge all of you to at least check out the websites of Stacks, Heritage and other major auction houses. You will be amazed at the volume of information contained and how much you will learn not only about coins but also history.

Doug Nyholm



This absolutely beautiful 1824/2 dime from the Pogue auction is an 1824 dime, with extraordinary color, is tied as the finest graded from PCGS in MS-66! It lists in the Red Book in VG-8 for \$65 and its auction estimate is an astounding \$25,000!





# **The Worlds Columbian Exposition**

by  
Allan Schein

The World's Columbian Exposition, the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 was held to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of Christopher Columbus arriving in the New World in 1492. It took place on a 630 acre site in Chicago's Jackson Park near the south waterfront and the surrounding neighborhoods, with more than 200 new buildings constructed (but purposely built to be temporary) of predominantly neoclassical architecture. Included were numerous sculptures, canals and lagoons, living exhibits about the people and cultures from 46 countries, and all the art and technology of the era. In the six months it was open, more than 27 Million people attended. Of the more than 200 buildings erected for the fair, the only two which still stand in place are the Palace of Fine Arts and the World's Congress Auxiliary Building. From the time the fair closed until 1920, the Palace of Fine Arts housed the Field Columbian Museum (now the Field Museum of Natural History, since relocated); in 1933, the Palace building re-opened as the Museum of Science and Industry. The second building, the World's Congress Building, was one of the few buildings not built in Jackson Park, instead it was built downtown in Grant Park.

During this period in history, World's Fairs were held every four years, with the previous event, the Exposition Universelle taking place in Paris in 1889, and followed after the Columbian Expo in 1897 by the Brussels International. Bidding had begun in 1882 and the right to hold the event awarded in 1890. That left less than three years to plan, design, build and stage what was the most incredible fair held up to that date. Dedication ceremonies took place on October 21, 1892, with the Fair officially opening to the public on May 1, 1893 and continuing until October 30, 1893.

The fair included life-size reproductions of Christopher Columbus' three ships, the Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria. These were intended to celebrate the 400 hundredth anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the Americas. The ships, a joint project of the governments of Spain and the United States, were constructed in Spain, then sailed to America for the exposition. There were fourteen main "great buildings" centered around a giant reflective pool called the Grand Basin. These buildings were architecturally progressive as well as huge, even though of a temporary nature. They included the Administration building, topped with a monumental sculpture of Columbus claiming America for Spain, inspired by Augustus Saint Gaudens but designed and sculpted by Miss Mary Lawrence. A Manufacturers and Liberal Arts building, Mines and Mining, Electricity, Machinery, Women's, Transportation, Fisheries, Forestry, Horticultural and Anthropology. Each contained extensive exhibits of all the technology of the day, working equipment, mechanical and botanical exhibits, and virtually anything that could be considered relevant about the people and places, culture and lifestyles of many of the peoples on our planet. Interspersed throughout were monumental sculptures created by the most prominent and talented sculptors of the period. It was an absolutely amazing Exposition, and an event that showcased the best of everything that existed from around the globe at that period of time, and what the future held for people around the world.





Photo by Francis Benjamin Johnston, Courtesy Library of Congress

There was quite a bit of memorabilia associated with the Columbian Exposition, and some of it was related to numismatics and currency, although the paper items might more accurately be categorized as Ephemera.

One day in particular was especially important to the residents of Chicago. "Chicago Day" was October 9, 1893, and 716,881 people attended on this date, which commemorated the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. The Great Chicago Fire was a huge destructive inferno that burned from Sunday, October 8, to early Tuesday, October 10, 1871. The fire killed up to 300 people, destroyed roughly 3.3 square miles (9 km<sup>2</sup>) of the city and left more than 100,000 residents homeless. Legend has it that the fire was started in a milking barn when Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over a lamp. However, the exact cause of the fire was never factually determined. The Expo was a testament to the perseverance of Chicago residents and the resilience they showed after the city's devastation.





Americas very first commemorative coin were minted specifically timed to the Columbian Expo, and is



the popular 1892 and 1893 Columbus silver half dollar. 950,000 pieces were struck in 1892, with many winding up in circulation. Examples of these are relatively common, and not expensive. Not until you reach the Gem uncirculated level and higher. Many tone beautifully and have great eye appeal. More were struck the following year, with a distributed mintage of 1,550,405 recorded for 1893. The latter year is easier to find overall.







The obverse design by Charles Barber features a bust of Columbus, facing right, with the words United States of America above, and Columbian Half Dollar below, separated on each side by a single six pointed star. The outer edge has denticles similar to the Morgan dollar. The reverse, designed by George Morgan features the Columbus flag ship the Santa Maria on a bed of waves in the upper central area, with the two hemispheres of the globe side by side below (somewhat reminiscent of early Spanish pillar dollars). The date 1492 is placed on either side of the globes, 14 to the left, 92 to the right. The date 1892 sits at the bottom with the words Worlds Columbian Exposition Chicago surrounding the imagery in an approximate 300 degree arc. A single six pointed star sits on either side of the date separating it from the inscription. The outer face of the coin has denticles similar to the obverse. There is no significant difference in the coin from 1892 to 1893 other than the date itself.



Columbian Half Dollar Reverse



Pillar Dollar, Mexico

The coin is 12.50 grams in weight, 30.6mm in diameter with a reeded edge. All were minted in Philadelphia of 90% silver and 10% copper.

There are 103 Proof Columbian Half dollars, with the date 1892, and are among the most elusive and desirable of all early classic commemorative halves.

While there is some debate over what qualifies as the first U.S. commemorative coin, the first *proof* commemoratives are the 1892 Columbian half dollars.

In addition to the half dollar was the much scarcer Isabella quarter dated 1893. Like the half dollar, the quarter was struck as a souvenir piece for the Exposition, but this lovely design only had 24,214 distributed making it a much scarcer piece. Both coins were sold for the original price of one dollar.

The Isabella quarter, designed by Charles Barber features a crowned portrait, facing left, of Spain's Queen Isabella who sponsored Columbus's voyage to the New World. Isabella's image fills the majority of the coin, with the words United States left and Of America to the right of her portrait, parallel to the edge. The date 1893 sits vertically to the right of the bust. The outer face features a denticle pattern inside the flat rim.





The reverse features a woman kneeling on one leg, facing left. She holds a distaff and spindle (a stick onto which flax or wool is wound for spinning), symbolic of the industry of American women. The motto above reads Board of Lady Managers with Columbian Quar. Dol. below. Upper and lower inscriptions separated by raised dots. Outer face has denticle pattern inside a flat rim. The coin has a reeded edge.





Isabella Quarters weigh 6.25 grams, measure 24.3mm in diameter, are composed of 90% silver and 10% copper. All coins were produced at the Philadelphia mint.

Now, 123 years after the closing of what was the World's most extensive array of Architectural, Anthropological, Cultural, Mechanical and Artistic presentations ever created up to that point in time, it is the memories and artifacts that remain. Numerous photographs, ticket stubs, sculptures and paintings for sure, the written descriptions and old catalogues and brochures, and some beautiful pieces of history in the form of collectible coins that were inspired by the event and designed to be a living testament of an incredible achievement on the part of the city of Chicago with participations and contributions from the entire world.

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Photos courtesy of Heritage Auctions



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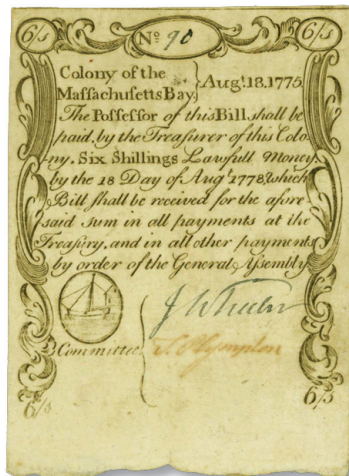
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Superb "Sword in Hand" Massachusetts Bay 6 Shilling Note.  
August 18, 1775. MA-163. PCGS Choice New 63 PPQ  
One of the Very Finest of Examples of the Type



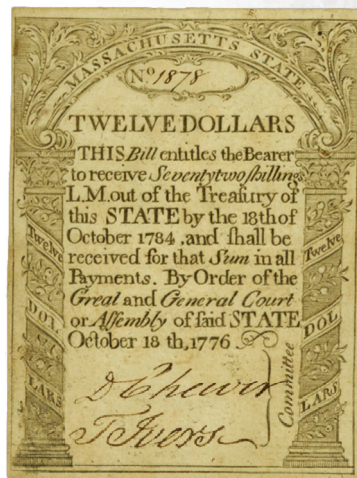
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1864 Abraham Lincoln Ferrotypic.  
Dewitt-AL1864-83. Choice Extremely Fine



Prized 1801 Thomas Jefferson  
Indian Peace Medal. Silver Shells  
with Added Rim, Mount and Ring.  
Julian IP-4. Choice Extremely Fine



Historic Circa 1790-1820 Silver Member Badge  
of the Tammany Society or Columbian Order.  
Choice Extremely Fine or Better



Extremely Rare "John Gill" Massachusetts State \$12 Note.  
October 18, 1776. MA-245. PCGS About New 50  
Second Finest Known of the Issue



Showcase Auctions

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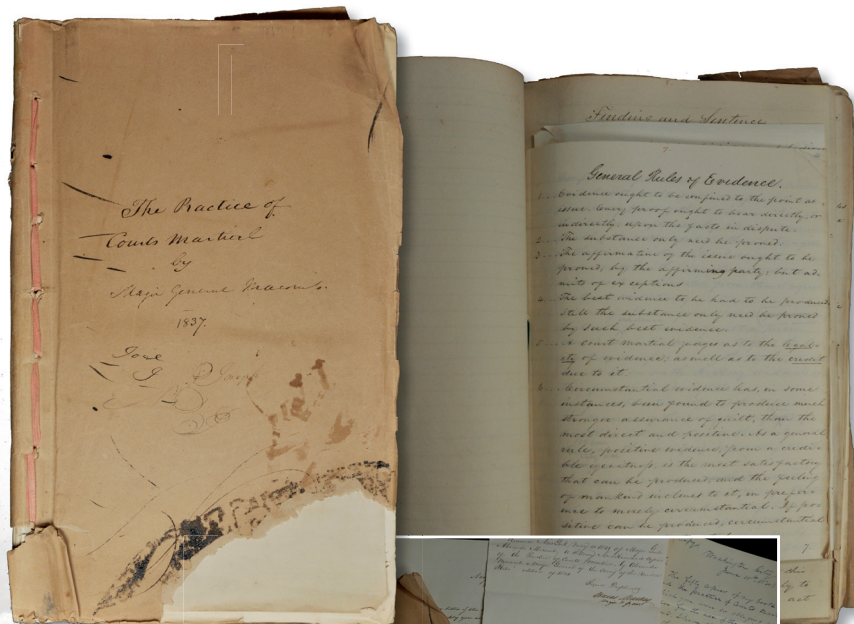
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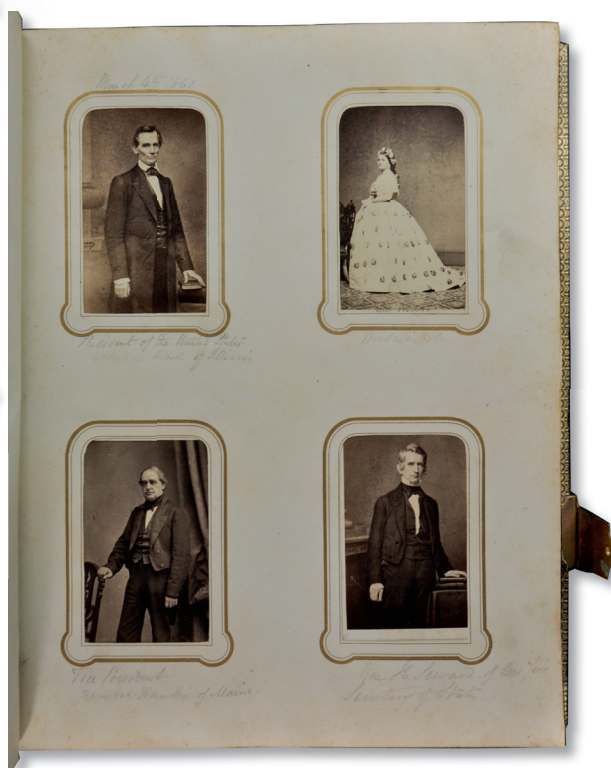
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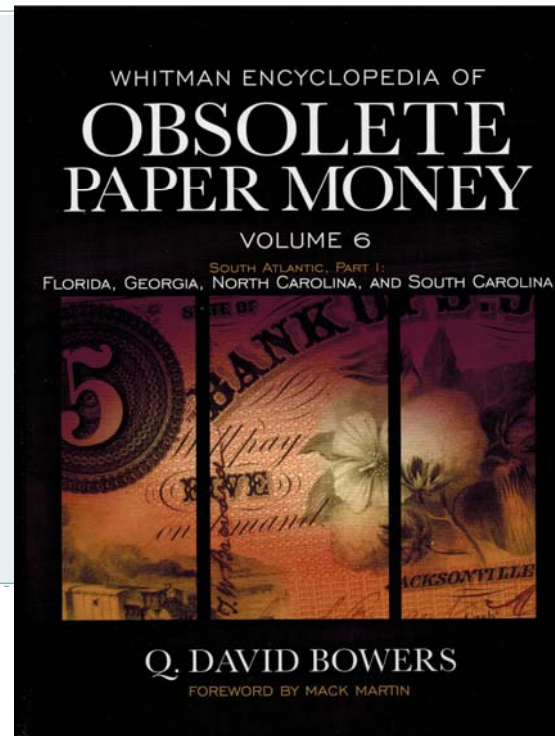
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Volume 6 of the 'Obsolete Paper Money' series of books by Q. David Bowers is off the press. This is a monumental project and this volume is Part 1 of the South Atlantic Region. There will be at least 6 more volumes forthcoming (probably more) covering the vast majority of all the obsolete currency issuing states.

Next in line are Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, California, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Utah, and Wisconsin.

Yes Utah will be included near the end of the series!



## *“The sixth volume on Obsolete Paper Money”*

The sixth volume covers the states of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. The format follows that of the previous editions. Each book is printed in full color on glossy paper with very complete descriptions of not only each note but each bank and city. It is a history lesson in early American banking.

This edition contains 480 pages and is available for \$69 directly from Whitman. It is amazing how much numismatic literature is available on the market today. Fifty years ago there was only a handful of really useful books available to the average collector and now it seems that there is a handful of very useful books appearing on the market each and every month.

If you have even a passing interest in learning or collecting these paper artifacts of yesteryear you will find this series of books invaluable.

Doug Nyholm



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APR

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MAY

BIRTHDAY & CLUB  
MEDAL DESIGN

JUNE

YOUTH NIGHT

JULY

UNS PICNIC

AUGUST

GUEST SPEAKER

SEPTEMBER

APPRAISAL NIGHT /  
FAVORITE COIN

OCTOBER

AUCTION

NOVEMBER

ELECTION / GUEST  
SPEAKER

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS

**PRIZES FOR FEBRUARY**

**Youth prize -**

**On-time prize -**

**Member prize -**

**To be announced**

**Buy of the Month**

To be announced

*The Utah Philatelic Society Presents*

***Utah Winter Stamp  
Show 2016***

Fri & Sat Feb 5 & 6, 2016

Fri 10 – 6, Sat 10 – 4

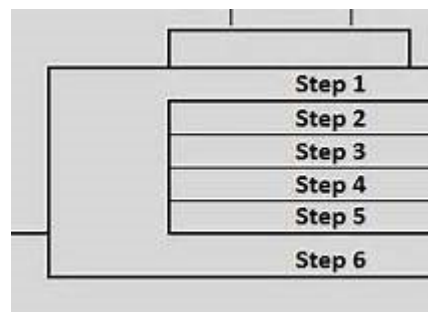
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**\* Please** bring an unexpired can of protein food  
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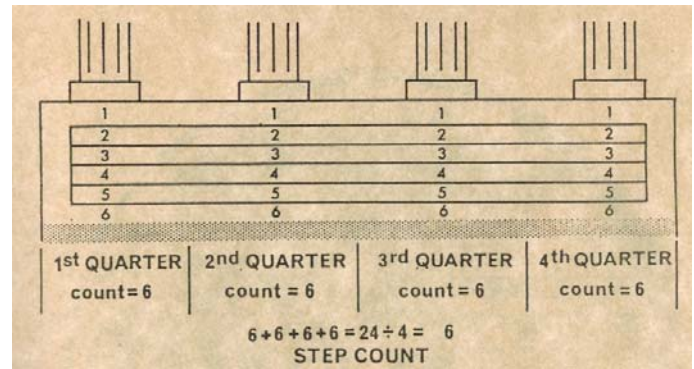
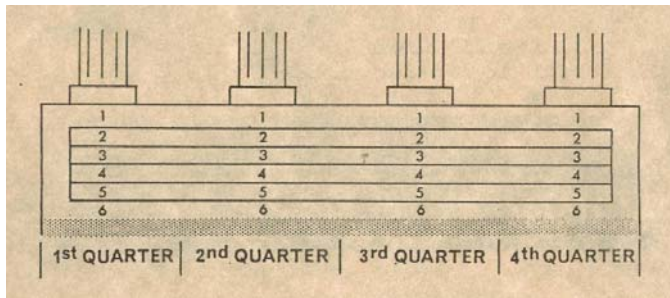
# Full Step Jefferson Nickels



One of the modern designations for strike quality is that of counting steps on Jefferson nickels. There are both 5-step and 6-step designations from modern grading services, but what is the difference and how do you count steps. If you look closely at the enlarged examples above you will see 5 horizontal lines clearly visible on each coin. What the heck then is a 6-step nickel. First one has to know a little about architecture for the answer. There are two identifiers for everyday steps. There is the “Riser” and the “Thread.” The thread is the portion of the stairs which you place your foot, or in other words the flat part. The riser is the vertical portion which elevates the next step from the one where your foot is resting upon.

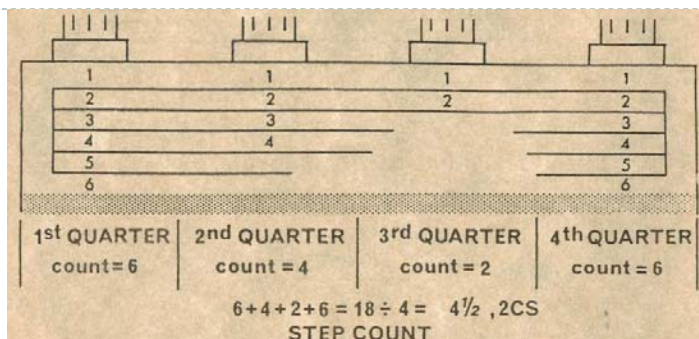
Therefore, when you are counting steps on Jefferson nickels the raised horizontal lines are the risers and not the steps. So if you have 6 steps, one is the bottom step and one is the top separated by 5 risers, again, these are the horizontal lines. Thus a full 6 step nickel will have five complete or unbroken horizontal lines.





These two diagrams show a full 6-Step Jefferson nickel and how the steps are divided into quadrants and calculated for certification. All four quadrants must be complete with 6 steps complete in order to be called 6 full steps.

### *“How to Count Steps on Nickels”*



If you look at the three diagrams above this is how steps are counted especially those on nickels which have less than 6 full steps. The steps are broken into quarters separated by the pillars on the building. The diagram at the bottom shows what a nickel with incomplete steps would look like. Most of the horizontal lines are intact however under the third pillar of the 3rd quadrant there is a weakness in the striking. This impacts all but 2 of the risers but this nickel would not be called a 3-step nickel. The calculation for number of steps would be to count the number of complete steps in each quadrant, add them together and then divide by 4. This nickel would be classified as a 4 1/2 step nickel. Realistically anything other than a 5 or 6 step nickel has very little additional value so this may be a relatively well struck coin with a small area of weakness but not too collectable for a connois-

*Full Steps (FS) is the designation following the numerical grade of some regular-strike **MS60** or higher Jefferson nickels that have at least five separated steps (lines) at the base of Moniticello. Any major disturbance or interruption of these steps or lines, whether caused by contact, planchet problems, or another source, will result in the coin's not being designated FS. Only the slightest weakness on any step (line) is allowed for this designation. Some issues are almost never seen with Full Steps and may command a significant premium.*



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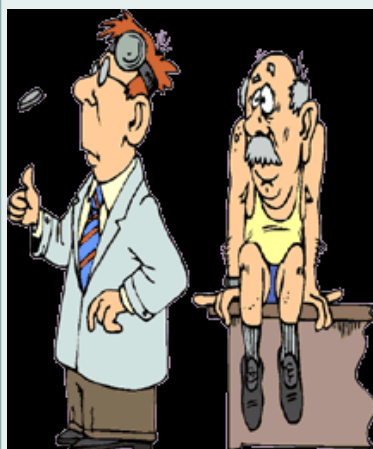
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<b>Doug Nyholm - Newsletter</b>	<b>801-918-9522</b>
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<b>Mike Rek</b>	<b>916-806-0923</b>
<b>Eldon Farnsworth</b>	<b>801-</b>

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Test your knowledge on coin identification.

How many can you identify completely by date, denomination, and mint?

1 to 3 — Novice

4 to 5 — Your getting started

6 to 8 — You've been around the block a few times

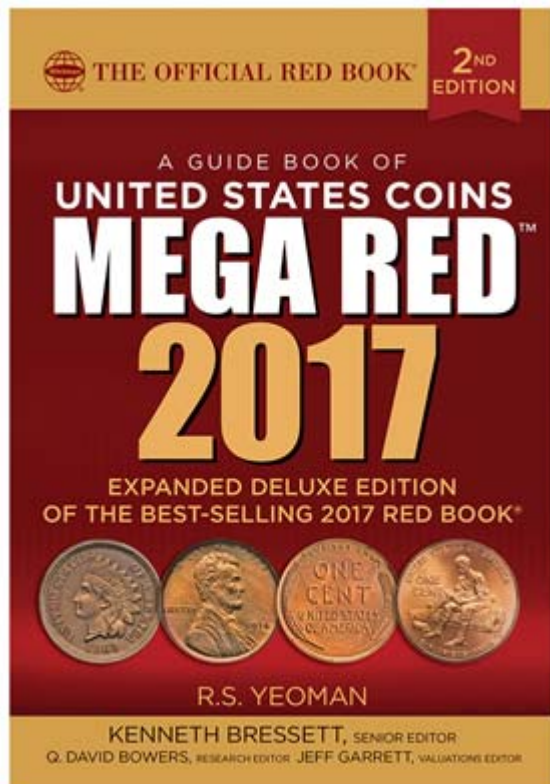
9 to 10 — Open your own coin shop

11 to 12 — World class expert

# Picture Quiz

*“How many can you identify by date/denomination/ and mint?”*

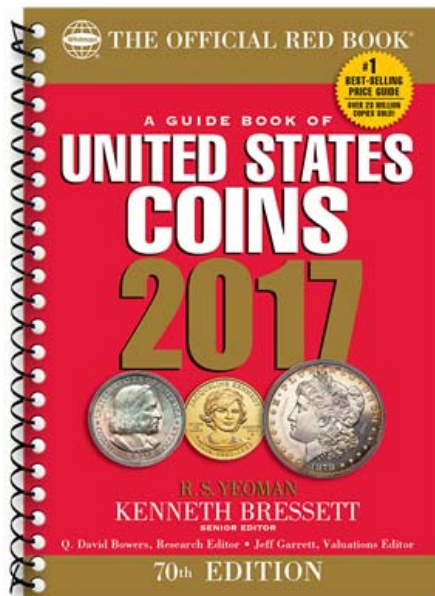




The Guide Book of United States Coins, Deluxe Edition, 2nd Edition, is billed as the most useful Red Book ever. The larger size and increased page count combined make the Deluxe Edition five times bigger than the regular-edition Red Book. It prices 8,100 items in up to 12 grades each, with 50,205 individual values and 16,667 auction records covering circulated, Mint State, and Proof coinage. The book is illustrated with 5,753 images. The Deluxe Edition covers American coinage from New England colonial times to the modern day; half cents through \$20 gold double eagles, plus bullion, commemoratives, Proof and Mint sets, significant tokens and medals, error coins, and other numismatic collectibles. It follows the basic structure of the regular-edition Red Book, but each chapter is dramatically expanded with more historical information, more die varieties, detailed grading instructions with enlarged full-color illustrations, specialized advice on strike characteristics and other technical details, market analysis, and valuable guidance on collecting and investing in rare coins. Each year, the new Deluxe Edition features an in-depth focus on one or more coin series. The 2nd edition includes a special 364-page section on Flying Eagle cents, Indian Head cents, and Lincoln cents written by Q. David Bowers, with images, history, diagnostics, and pricing for coins from 1856 to date.

## 2017 Red Books are coming

The standard edition plus a new and updated 'Mega Red' book for 2017 will be available in early April.





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# Young Numismatists

**Phil Clarks article for the YN's Will return next month.**

**Answers to the picture coin quiz**

**Left to Right / Top to Bottom**

**1793 Half Cent / 1912-S Liberty Nickel / 1796 1/4 Eagle / 1817 Large Cent  
1793 Large Cent / 1853-O 3 Cent / 1853 Half Dollar / 1964-D Kennedy Half  
1804 Half cent / 1794 Large Cent / 1937-D Buffalo Nickel / 1860 Mormon \$5**



## Got Stamps?



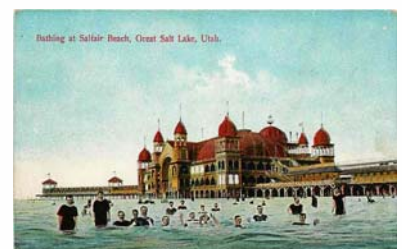
## Old letters – Old postcards?

Do you have an old collection or accumulation of stuff that you don't know what to do with? ***I can help!*** Call me to discuss what items you have. Whether you just want to know what the value is or if you want to sell them. We can discuss what options you have to dispose of your items or I can give you a free verbal appraisal based on the current market value. Either way you will know what you have and can then make intelligent decisions as to what to do with it. Give me a call. It will be worth your time.



**Dave Blackhurst**

**801-580-9534**





# Amazing Errors



Pictured at the left is a 1905 Indian Cent struck on a gold quarter eagle planchet.



## EDITORS MESSAGE—FEBRUARY 2016



Finally I have noticed that the days are getting a bit longer. Winter however is still here and I'm beginning to look forward to warmer days or at least temperatures staying above freezing. I am also looking forward to a great year for the UNS with many fun activities forthcoming and exciting meetings. Although I am not what you consider by any means a modern coin collector I am definitely looking forward to hearing Phil Clark speak this month on modern coins. There is so much happening compared to when I was beginning to collect coins back in the early 60's. It was pretty mundane with not much changing from year to

year except for new dates and still being able to collect valuable coins from circulation. Today the mint is coming out with new coins and programs it seems like multiple times a month. Of course there are those who complain about there being too much and most cannot even afford to collect one of every item being released in a single year. Still, it is much better than one cent, nickel, dime, quarter, and half dollar per year. I do miss the half dollar however. And with recent talk we may someday soon follow Canada's lead and see the beloved cent go bye-bye. Then we will be down to only three circulating coins, it kind of seems impossible doesn't it. And really, is the nickel needed? What can you purchase for five cents? And remember, it costs the mint more than 5 cents to produce each nickel. On the positive side I do believe that all these new items and the excitement created by the mint it is definitely keeping our hobby alive and well. I occasionally speak to old-time stamp collectors and even with the multiple issuances of commemorative stamps and associated issues the stamp hobby is definitely not thriving. Some have told me that this demise occurred with the advent of sticky stamps but at least to me coins do seem quite a bit more exciting. So whatever you collect, very old coins, new coins, or even bullion, these times are exciting and I again am looking forward to hearing Phil Clark and his talk at our next meeting.

Doug Nyholm





# UTAH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UTAH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

NAME(S) OF APPLICANTS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

### HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER?

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### ANNUAL DUES

☐

\$30 FAMILY

☐

\$20 ADULT

☐

\$5 JUNIOR (<18)

### WHERE & WHEN WE MEET

SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 P.M.

**COLUMBUS COMMUNITY CENTER – 2351 SOUTH 400 EAST – S.L.C. UT 84115**

The Utah Numismatic Society is now enjoying its 64th year serving collectors in Utah. We sponsor an annual coin show held in Sandy which you may have attended. Our monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday in Salt Lake City. We have many knowledgeable as well as novice and beginning collectors in attendance every month.

Our monthly publication entitled "The Mint Master" contains interesting reading featuring articles such as the 'Counterfeit Corner,' 'Book Reviews,' 'Young Numismatists,' as well as many other numismatic news-worthy columns.

Our meetings include Bourse, Auctions, expert speakers as well as our annual "Youth Night" and "Summer Picnic."

We invite you to attend one of our meetings held at the Columbus Community Center, 2351 S. 400 E., Salt Lake City.

